

Wine in the Bible Let Us Call Thee Devil Study Pac 7

What Goes In Does Not Defile

Matthew 15:11;17 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

[17] Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

The context is seen in the beginning of the same chapter when the Pharisees noticed that Christ's disciples "**wash not their hands when they eat bread**" (vs 2). Jesus was talking only about eating with unwashed hands. Jesus explains what He means in **Matthew 15:20**

These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

1. There is no way this can be applied to the _____ of alcoholic beverages.

All Things Are Lawful

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

2. Paul did not mean "Anything goes for me - I consider nothing evil in itself - I could do anything without being condemned!" So many Christians today misuse the message of Paul! It is an alibi for all kinds of indulgences. Paul was not a law unto himself. He did not live _____.

Other Things Are Just As Evil

3. Some who want to _____ themselves claim that gluttony and drunkenness are sins of the same kind. They say: "I don't overeat like some Christians who don't drink". Sure! Gluttony is a sin of excess and drunkenness is too. But it doesn't mean that moderate food intake is like moderate wine drinking. There is a difference.

Difference between Gluttony and Drinking

- A. Food is vitally necessary for life. Wine is totally unnecessary for life.
- B. With food, excess alone is harmful. There is *nothing* innately harmful or sinful in food. Wine in any amount is excess. Alcohol is an innately harmful drug when taken internally
- C. Gluttony is a long term sin against oneself. Drinking is a sin which immediately affects everyone around you for ill.
- D. Gluttony causes no appreciable short-term ill effects on the glutton's mind, or his alertness, or his motor skills. Drinking causes immediate disastrous effects upon the person's mental processes.

They Could Not Preserve Grape Juice In Bible Times

They say "There was no refrigeration. Plain grape juice would not keep; in time it would naturally become wine".

Another says: "The term 'new wine' does not indicate wine which was not fermented, for in fact the process of fermentation sets in very rapidly, and unfermented wine could not be available many months after harvest"

4. Thus it is believed that the ancients had no way to _____ grape juice. They contend that yayin and oinos which was used all year long must only refer to intoxicants. This becomes a logical proof rather than Biblical.
5. For if it is clear that Israel used _____ juice all year long, the Biblical scholar, who is true to the Word of God, would accept it as fact even if there was no outside evidence to prove it; but there is evidence!
6. Just as many _____ assert the following: "sometimes it was preserved in its unfermented state and drunk as must" ... it is _____ that new wine was preserved in the state of must by placing it in jars or bottles and then burying it in the earth.
7. The Old Testament and the New Testament do not suggest how grape juice was _____. Neither Testament mentions how the intoxicants were _____ either. If grape juice just ferments naturally, it does not become wine; but spoiled grape juice.
8. But the _____ of those days document the fact that grape juice could be kept and was kept over _____ periods of time.

Here are a few:

“If you wish to keep grape juice through the whole year, put the grape juice in an amphora, seal the stopper with pitch, and sink in the pond. Take it out after thirty days, it will remain sweet the whole year.” *Cato* (2nd century B.C.)

“Consequently, as soon as the must is taken from the vat and put into casks, they plunge the casks in water till midwinter passes and regular cold weather sets in.” *Pliny* (1st century A.D)

“That must may remain always as sweet as though it were fresh, do as follows. Before the grape-skins are put under the press, take from the vat some of the freshest possible must and put it in a new wine jar; then daub it over and cover it carefully with pitch, that thus no water may be able to get in. Then sink the whole flagon in a pool of cold, fresh water so that no part of it is above the surface. Then after forty days take it out of the water. The must will then keep sweet for as much as a year.” *Columella* (1st century A.D.)

Bible Wines Had Lower Alcoholic Content

9. Some contend that the _____ fermentation does not allow for a very high percentage of alcohol as the distilled drinks of our days, others in Bible times it was less potent.

10. Look at Lot and Noah. They were as _____ as it is possible to be. Perhaps the wines were weaker and they had to drink more to get drunk, but they still got _____.

It is well known that natural fermentation of wine is 12 to 14 percent alcohol while the alcoholic content by distillation reaches 15 percent. "Modern research has shown that Biblical wines were probably comparable in alcohol content to popular wines today.

11. _____ table wine is no stronger today. _____ wines and whiskey are stronger, and therefore the _____ is quicker, but they cannot make a _____ any more drunk.

They Had An Inadequate Safe Water Supply

"I hear the water isn't good in France so they must drink wine. Is that so? Hundreds of times this question has been asked me during the nearly 25 years that we have served there. The answer is "no". We have drunk tap water for the entire time and our livers are in much better shape than those who have substituted wine. The same excuse is used for Biblical times but it cannot be proven." —*Ivan Peterson*

12. God describes the land which He gave to Israel as a land _____ with water.

In **Deuteronomy 8:7** we read:

For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills.

Even in David's time he praises God who "**watereth the ridges thereof abundantly**".

It Is Mostly A Cultural Problem

13. We are not to base doctrine on _____, let alone the experience of a non-Christian society. It is not a true picture to say that generally Jewish people approved of moderate drinking. A Jewish Rabbi tells us:

“An earnest and intelligent investigation in the tomes of Israel's vast and sacred literature will convince the reader beyond a doubt that the Hebrew prophets and a host of the Talmudic Rabbins, were outspoken in the great cause of prohibition. It is true that some Talmudic doctors have sanctioned, aye, even recommended the moderate use of wine. But it is equally true that many Talmudic Rabbins have in vigorous words condemned the drinking of wine and strong drink.”

14. Today, those who oppose abstinence give _____ excuses. Drinking believers in France, and, missionaries who feel they have "adapted", call abstinence “Americanism”.

15. They look at the _____ era that shaped fundamentalists' attitudes toward drink in the U.S.A. The thinking is that this “cultural quirk of

history” did not reach other parts of the world. It is therefore, they say, a cultural problem rather than a Scriptural one.

If they need cultural answers then here are some: Where do most of the world's missionaries come from? Where is evangelism the heart of the church? The great evangelists of today, are they not teetotalers? If it is a cultural problem, it is not between American and European cultures but between non-evangelical worldly culture and evangelical morally-oriented culture.

16. _____ is born in the culture of abstinence!

17. But it is not a cultural problem. It is a _____ one! Scripture definitely shows that when God's people drank of an intoxicant it was to their own sin, shame and destruction.

What Harm Can It Do?

18. It can harm you and others through violence, crime, health factors, etc. But consider how it may harm a weaker brother or even your own children, that _____ in your home.

19. It harms you! It kills! Your health is broken! The inner man also suffers. It hurts your _____ and does much harm to world evangelism. It holds back revival and opens doors for demonic _____.

Even if there was a little "good" resulting from wine usage such as a good taste or merriment, the "harm" heavily out balances the "good". This excuse is totally illogical.

The logical question should be – “Can you drink an intoxicant for the glory of God, for the good of your family, for the faith of your spiritual brother, for His church, for revival and for evangelism in your world?”

20. Don't justify your _____ by using Jesus or Paul as an alibi. Be honest enough to admit that you drink because you _____ the taste; because you seek an _____ effect; because you _____ to allow anyone to interfere with your freedoms.

21. **Everyone who drinks is _____ . Don't gamble with your life or the lives of others.**

22. It is the task of _____ of the cross to warn the 'saints' in the pews of the dangers and Biblical condemnation of even looking at wine. Where there should be teaching, there is _____! Where there should be help, there is _____. Where there should be encouragement they find poor examples.

23. Where there should be _____ they receive a renewed taste for alcohol in the communion cup! The church must decide if she wants to be filled with the Spirit or filled with wine. There is no _____ ground!

The great deceiver

24. Alcohol is much more than just a drink - it is a demonic _____ formulated in the devil's mind, and served up to the world as an _____ to the cross of Christ.

25. Satan is "the great deceiver. He promised Christ (during the temptation) riches, power and glory. He promised Adam and Eve the hope of being like God. He deceived Judas and he tries to deceive you and me. It is true that he can use almost anything that is considered _____.
26. But when he uses things that alter the will, dulls the senses, or go against clear Scriptural commands - _____.
27. "Let all Christians oblige themselves to be _____ moderate in the use of wine and strong drink; for the love of these once gets the mastery of a man, he becomes a very easy _____ to Satan".
28. The Bible says "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov. 20:1). Alcohol is a _____.

Fruit of the Spirit

Results of alcohol

Love

Self -satisfaction

Joy

Temporal merriment

Peace

Agitation

Longsuffering

Irritation

Gentleness

Harm others

Goodness

Selfishness

Faith

Dull senses

Meekness

Self assertion

Self-control

Uninhibited

"God's love is better than wine. Christian fellowship is better than wine. Family relationships are better than wine. and God's daily blessings are better than wine".